



Frequently Asked Questions about On-site Testing for Licensed Well Operators

For Well Operators

Water Resources Program

For more information:

Online visit:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wrhome.html
– click on wells

To leave a recorded message, call
1-800-468-0261.

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If you require this document in an alternate format, contact 360-407-6600 (voice) or TTY at 711 or 1-800-833-6388.

Q: What is an on-site test and who is required to take one?

A: An on-site test is a field examination that may be required by some applicants. The test is designed to demonstrate that an applicant has the basic knowledge and skills required to drill wells in Washington. The examination may take place at an actual well drilling site, or at your shop. The on-site test is administered by Ecology.

Not all license applicants are required to take the on-site exam. Only a person applying for either water well or resource protection *training* license *must* complete an on-site examination as part of the licensing process. Ecology may also require an on-site test if an applicant was previously licensed in another state, or if an applicant's original license has been suspended, revoked or expired.

Q: What will be required in the test?

A: An on-site examination will test the applicant's general knowledge and field skills needed to safely complete a well. The applicant will be asked to demonstrate their familiarization with the major components of the drill rig and the construction regulations (Chapter 18.104 RCW and Chapters 173-160 WAC) by operating their drilling equipment.

Q: How will I be notified if I have to take the test?

A: You will be notified at the time Ecology mails your written examination results. It will be your responsibility to contact Ecology. A contact name and number will be sent with your examination results.

You will need to be prompt about scheduling the on-site test. Examinations must be taken within 30 days after passing the written examination. If meeting the 30 day timeframe is not practical, you may contact Ecology to request an extension to the testing schedule. Acceptable reasons for rescheduling may include poor weather conditions, lack of available department staff or health problems. However, if for any reason you don't complete the on-site exam within 90 days after passing the written exam, you may have to reapply and reschedule another on-site exam.

Q: How much does the examination cost?

A: Your Ecology application fee includes the cost of the on-site exam.

Q: How do I find out the results of the test?

A: You will be notified of your test results within 10 days after taking the test. If you fail the on-site exam, you may retest after waiting at least 30 days. You will not be required to retake the written exam if you fail the on-site exam.

